

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

HB 2616 - SB 2635

February 27, 2016

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires the Department of Education (DOE) to provide a universal screening tool for dyslexia that shall be utilized by local education agencies (LEAs) through the existing Response to Instruction and Intervention (RTI) framework. Requires LEAs to use the universal screening tool to screen each student in kindergarten through second grade three times each year. After the screening procedures are complete each year, the LEA shall convene a team to analyze screening and progress monitoring data to assist teachers in planning and implementing appropriate instruction and evidence-based interventions for all students. Sets forth the process that an LEA shall follow if a student displays characteristics of dyslexia. Requires the DOE to provide professional development for educators in the area of identification and intervention methods for dyslexia.

Creates an eight-member Dyslexia Advisory Council that shall be comprised of the Commissioner of Education; an education specialist from the DOE; a dyslexia advisory group representative; a special education teacher; an elementary school teacher, a middle school teacher; a high school teacher; and a parent of a child who is dyslexic. The terms of the council members shall begin on July 1, 2016, with the council meeting quarterly. Requires the council to submit an annual report to the Education Committees of the General Assembly and to coordinate with the DOE in the selection of the universal screening tool that will be used. The council shall terminate on June 30, 2018, unless extended pursuant to the provisions of the *Tennessee Governmental Entity Review Law*.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures - \$1,651,000

Assumptions:

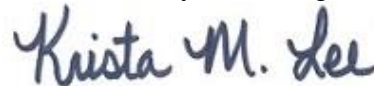
- The state will pay for the universal screener for dyslexia that LEAs will use each year.
- Based on information from the DOE, the annual cost for a skills-based student screener averages \$4.75 per student.
- Based on the student population count conducted on December 1, 2015, by the DOE, there are 218,443 students in kindergarten, first, and second grades in Tennessee.
- The recurring increase in state expenditures to test all students in kindergarten through second grade is estimated to be \$1,037,604 (218,443 x \$4.75).

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- The DOE will provide annual training for teachers on the use of the universal screener for dyslexia. Based on other statewide professional development courses conducted by the DOE, the recurring increase in expenditures for training on the use of the universal screener is estimated to be \$4,250 per LEA. The recurring increase in state expenditures for training is estimated to be \$607,750 [$\$4,250 \times 143$ LEAs (which includes two state special schools)].
- The new eight-member Advisory Council on Dyslexia will meet quarterly; for a total of four meetings each year.
- The Council is placed under the *Tennessee Governmental Review Law* with a termination date of June 30, 2018. It is assumed the Council and related expenditures will be extended beyond June 30, 2018.
- The new advisory council, excluding two DOE staff, will receive travel reimbursement.
- Of the remaining six members, it is reasonably estimated that there will be two members from each Grand Division.
- Four members, two from the East Division and two from the West Division, will be required to stay overnight in Nashville four times a year at an average cost of \$145 per night; an increase in state expenditures of \$2,320 ($\145×4 members \times 4 nights).
- Mileage is reimbursed at \$0.47 per mile. It is estimated each council member will travel at least 297 roundtrip miles on average.
- Travel reimbursement for the six council members is estimated to be \$3,350 (297 miles roundtrip \times 6 members \times \$0.47 \times 4 annual trips).
- The total recurring increase in state expenditures is estimated to be \$1,651,024 ($\$1,037,604 + \$607,750 + \$2,320 + \$3,350$).

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



Krista M. Lee, Executive Director

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